

Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging Minutes

Regular Meeting
March 10, 2022 - 1:00 pm
Online meeting

Members Present: Janet Court, Helene Gauthier, Angelique Kingsbury, Melinda Ludwiczak, Hazel Tanner, Paulette Will, and Beth Winnick (Quorum: 4)

Members Absent: Thomas Weist (Secretary) and Florence Castner

Staff : Christina Kendrick

Call To Order

1. Roll Call.

Quorum Present

2. Adoption of the agenda.

Action Taken: Adopted

3. Acceptance of minutes

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Action Taken: Accepted

Consent

4. Adopt updated bylaws

Bylaws were reviewed. Changes were mostly regarding term limits, attendance and removing language that was in conflict with open meeting law. They were approved all in favor, no nays. Bylaws will be sent to clerk's office for update to MACOA web page.

Action Taken: Approved

Discussion

5. Update on Trellis letter

We discussed the funding stream issues. There's federal and some of that is older Americans act funds. Certain services like home delivered meals and chore and homemaker services and things like that that are mandated and that flows to our area agency on aging, which is trellis. They also have state funds that they manage and disperse and then there's the county has services so a lot of that is social workers who do assessments to help families figure out what services people qualify for and how to access those services, and then the city has some funding. It used to be some CDBG which is

some federal funds that come to cities that they were allocating for some services, but I understand from Christina that's changed a little bit. Those services don't always cover the entire city. Funds come and so that that's a gap. We've identified and then there's private and foundation funds that go out there to help older adults, so Trellis is telling us that their goal is to provide the best level of services to our elders within their geographic boundary, which is the 7 county metro area.

Trellis also admits that there's limitations to the senior linkage line database and how calls are answered so the calls are rotated. But I think there's 4 offices. There's 1 in the Metro. There's one in Duluth. I think there's one in Rochester or Mankato and then finally another one out in the northwestern part of the state. And so the calls are answered in a rotating basis, so someone in the metro area may get someone in Duluth, who's answering the question and the answer is only as good as the database.

There are other capacity issues for Trellis - One of the things we were talking about is maybe sending a letter specifically to Trellis outlining how those gaps and issues are affecting our elders and we hope that they addressed them – with the letter moving up to the board on aging who manages the whole statewide senior linkage line. This would be a piece of advocacy that we could. On the other side of this is how we can work with Trellis to help identify gaps and services across the city.

Other conversations were around Trellis doing a citywide needs assessment (they are looking for funding for this) as well as Trellis looking for funding for Community Navigators (social workers who can case manage).

Action Taken: No action taken

6. Community Connections Conference planning

We will have a table and will figure out “staffing” for the day. Interactive, lots of information especially applications for MACOA, celebrate our city elders will be the booth theme.

Action Taken: No action taken

Adjournment